(d) what are the main reasons for short supply of cotton bales to the textile industry in the country; and

(e) what measures have been taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The textile industry has been affected due to upward trend of prices of cotton during the current cotton season (Sept. 91- Aug. 92).

(b) The consumption of cotton by mills during the period Aug.' 91- Jan. '92 was about 51 lakh bales.

(c) During the period Aug.' 91- Jan. '92 the capacity utilisation in the spindles has marginally declined by about 1,38 per cent.

(d) The opening stock of 1991-92 cotton season was about 22.84 lakh bales as compared to 33,04 lakh bales. at the beginning of 1990-91 season.

(e) The measures taken by the Government include adoption of a cautions policy on the export of cotton and cotton yarn. There is also a proposal to import cotton, the modalities of which are being worked out.

Handing over Jute Mills on Lease

1766. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hand over six nationalised jute mills under N.J.M.C. on lease to a private company against a payment of Rs. 30 crore; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are the terms of lease, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement in the quality of value added textiles products

1767. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) what is the detailed plan of the Government to encourage and improve the quality of value added Textiles products which can be used for domestic consumption and also for exports; and

(b) what is the target for total export of textiles to be increased during the next 5 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government have taken various measures for modernising all sectors of Textile Industry. A statement of such measures is enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) By the terminal year of 8th Five Year Plan the export of textiles are projected to reach a level of Rs. 45,700 crores (US $ 17,577 Millions).

Statement

Measures taken by Government for increasing and improving production of value added Textile Products.

HANDLOOM SECTOR

(i) Financial assistance for modernisation of looms;

(ii) Scheme of decentralised training to train weavers on improved technology;

(iii) Scheme of training a cadre of 'Bunkar Sevaks' for assisting weavers in transfer of improved technology;

(iv) Protection to handlooms by reserving certain varieties of cloth for their exclusive production in the handloom sector;